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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Although the Workers' Educational Society of Finland has maintained a common course of study for the Social Democratic and Communist Party groups -- no doubt because of the Government support which both factions naturally wish to avail themselves of -- both of these political parties carry on extensive educational activities of their own. For example, the Communists have established their own school of journalism, one unit of which supplies Communist organizations with propaganda material.
2. Another result of the split in the Finnish labor movement has been the establishment of a new industrial academy. It is the so-called Sirola Academy, founded in the fall of 1946, which follows a course far to the left of the original industrial academy of Finland which has existed since the beginning of the 20th Century. Even so traditionally neutral a sphere as that of the library and archives has been divided into two sections. This is understandable when one considers that the old industrial archives were supported by the Social Democratic Party, and that the Communists have accumulated a considerable amount of documents and printed matter, since their activities became legal, which they prefer to keep in archives of their own.
3. The old labor archives were already established in 1909, chiefly upon the initiative of Yrjö Sirola, a well-read man with varied cultural interests. Thus, Finland's archives are only a few years younger than the labor archives established in Stockholm by Dr. Oscar Borge in 1905. The Finnish and Swedish institutions have kept close contact with one another. Since the Finnish archives have received a great amount of material from Stockholm and have been unable to contribute very much, they have been the chief benefactors from this association.
4. When Yrjö Sirola, first archivist of Finland's Industrial Archives, left for America, his duties were assumed by K. H. Wiik who made a concerted effort to form contacts with foreign cultural institutions and various other organizations. As a result, the Finnish Industrial Archives contain a comprehensive collection of foreign material dealing with the labor movements -- reports which correlate and corroborate the protocols and reports of international and other labor movements. Some of this material can be considered almost priceless, not only in its relation to the history of the Finnish labor movement, but also in regard to the history of the country as a whole. There are valuable materials, for example, concerning the crucial years 1905-06, 1917-18, 1930-32, and 1939-44. There are now more than 50,000 volumes in the library division of this institution and in addition a private collection of 7,000 volumes has been purchased but not yet incorporated. There are some 200,000 documents also.

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5. The Finnish Communist Party Archives were established in the spring of 1946, six months after the Party was able to resume its legal activities. The same general system is employed as that used in the old archives. Differences exist, however, particularly in the materials preserved. Whereas the old archives contain abundant material concerning the old revolutionary movements of Russia, the new archives no doubt are superior where present day political and social life in the USSR are concerned. Furthermore, there is a generous representation of the theoretical literature now being distributed in the USSR. There are, for example, numerous volumes of the works of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. Another place where the new archives apparently are superior to the old is in its collection of Communist Underground literature. If one is especially interested in the history of the Communist movement, the best source of supply is no doubt to be found in the new archives.
6. Because of their recent establishment, the Communist Archives are not very comprehensive. The library division containing approximately 4,000 volumes, a document collection numbering about 6,000, and a pictorial collection of more than 600 pieces as well as an attractive small collection of museum exhibits make a good beginning, however.
7. Both labor archives give a good picture of a living cultural interest within the Finnish labor movement.

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